

Office of Civil Legal Aid

RCW 2.53

Request	\$30,284,000	
Net change from current biennium	\$5,635,144	Increase
Percent change from current biennium	22.9%	Increase

The Office of Civil Legal Aid is an independent judicial branch agency that administers and ensures accountability for the Legislature's investment in civil legal aid services for low income persons throughout Washington State. State funded civil legal aid is a core component of the justice system, furthering the judicial branch's constitutional obligation to fairly administer civil justice in all cases. State civil legal aid funding is used to help provide essential civil (non criminal) legal assistance, advice, and representation to more than 25,000 low income individuals each year with respect to civil legal problems that affect basic human needs including personal and family safety and security, shelter preservation, mortgage foreclosure and homelessness prevention, consumer fraud and predatory lending, and access to health care, education, and other essential governmental services. The Office of Civil Legal Aid is overseen by a bipartisan Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee established by RCW 2.53.010.

The 2014 Legislature enacted 2ESSB 6126 (codified in relevant parts at RCW 13.34.100(2)(6) and RCW 2.53.045) which expanded the Office of Civil Legal Aid's responsibilities to include administration of state funding for standards-based legal representation in dependency cases of children who remain legally free six months following termination of their parent's legal rights.

Agency Mission

The mission of the Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) is to work within the judicial branch and with the Supreme Court's Access to the Justice Board to ensure justice for low income residents of Washington State through the funding and oversight of effective, economical, and responsive state funded civil legal aid services and to ensure accountability for state appropriated funds dedicated to this purpose. OCLA is also an effective steward of funding appropriated to ensure effective, standards-based legal representation of legally free children in dependency cases.

Agency Level Summary

Operating Budget: Summary

2013-15 Appropriations			Appropriated Funds	Expenditures		
Amount	Estimated Balance			2011-13 Actual	2013-15 Estimated	2015-17 Proposed
23,015,000	5,244		General Fund - Basic Account - State	21,591,644	23,009,756	28,521,000
			General Fund - Basic Account - Private/Local			300,000
186,100			General Fund - Basic Account - Private/Local	83,117	186,100	
			Unanticipated			
1,453,000			Judicial Stabilization Trust Acct - State	2,073,000	1,453,000	1,463,000
24,654,100	5,244		Total Appropriated Funds	23,747,761	24,648,856	30,284,000

Operating Budget: Change from Preceding Biennium

	2011-13 Actual		2013-15 Estimated		2015-17 Proposed	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Total	963,160	4.2%	901,095	3.8%	5,635,144	22.9%

Employment Summary

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Estimated	2014-15 Estimated	2015-16 Proposed	2016-17 Proposed
FTE Staff Years	1.0	1.2	2.0	3.0	3.0